

The Eagle Vision

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JHS Students Win Several Awards at MSSU Media Showcase Event

On Dec. 3, more than 325 students from several area school districts gathered at Missouri Southern State University for the annual Southern Media Showcase. The event, presented by Missouri Southern's Communications Department, recognizes outstanding work in print and video projects by high school students.

Joplin High School's Spyglass staff earned numerous awards in the high school publications competition including first place awards for Katelyn Paris in sports photography, Rylee Hartwell in news writing, Devon Johnson in feature writing, Emma Thompson in feature photography, and Matt McMullen in information graphic and page one design. Spyglass also earned best overall publication (Editor Emma Thompson) and was the sweepstakes winner. JETHD students also earned several awards in the high school video competition including first place in the commercial/PSA category for Brendan Beck. (See pic above)

[Watch his winning entry here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 7-9 Kaminsky Classic BB Tourney
- January 18 NO SCHOOL – Teacher Prof Dev.
- January 29 Basketball Homecoming
- February 19 NO SCHOOL – Teacher Prof Dev.
- March 2-3 AdvancED Accreditation Visit
- March 11 3rd Quarter Ends
- March 16-17 Parent/Teachers Conferences
- March 18-27 Spring Break
- April 9 JHS Jr./Sr. Prom
- April 11-29 End of Course Exams
- April 19 Statewide ACT Exams for Juniors
- May 5 Senior Awards Assembly
- May 2-13 AP Exams
- May 11 Last Day of School (no snow)
- May 22 Graduation at MSSU-2:00pm



JHS Announces Plan to Remember Students and Staff at Graduation

Recently, a parent in our district made a request to have her son, who passed away during the May 2011 tornado, recognized during the May 2016 JHS graduation ceremony. He was in seventh grade at the time of his death and would have graduated with the Class of 2016.

Our current and longstanding practice is to recognize students who pass away at any point while attending Joplin High School by announcing their names and holding a moment of silence to honor them during the graduation ceremony. We have recognized ten high school students in this manner over the last several years. This recent request and the conversations occurring on social media and in our community have challenged us to review this practice. Is this the best way to honor students? Should we expand this to include students who never attended our high school but attended Joplin Schools? How would we ensure students weren't forgotten? Is this appropriate during what is typically a celebratory event? What do other schools in our area do? And, what we believe is the most important question, what do our students think? Graduation is, after all, a celebration and recognition of their accomplishments.

A few weeks ago, we spoke with several seniors at JHS to help inform the review of our current practice and to help us make our decision. These students represented a broad and diverse mix of our student population. We also spoke with several staff members. We shared our current practice and the additional plans to mark the five-year anniversary of the tornado, which includes holding a moment of silence and displaying the names of the Joplin Schools' students and staff member who passed away. We also shared details of the request that was made by the parents, which includes an empty seat at graduation decorated with a cap and gown and the student's name read aloud during the naming of students as they cross the stage to accept their diplomas.

Overwhelmingly, the students preferred that our current practice remain intact. The staff members we spoke to felt the same. Our students feel it is appropriate to make an exception to our current practice to help honor these parents' son by listing his name and the names of the other students and staff member lost during the tornado on a screen during the ceremony and holding a moment of silence to honor them. They also suggested adding the class these students would have belonged to on the screen as an additional recognition, which we will do. In this way, our students will honor a classmate who would have graduated with the Class of 2016 and all those we lost as a district that terrible day.

After wrestling with the questions raised by this discussion and seeking feedback from our students, it was their input that helped us to decide at this time to leave our current practice in place. We have shared this decision with the parents who requested that we make a change to this practice. Our hearts and thoughts are with this family and all of those throughout

our district who have lost a child. There is not a more difficult event to imagine. We appreciate the feedback we have received from our parents and community and especially the feedback from our students. We are proud of their thoughtfulness and compassion during these discussions and their willingness to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas.



JHS & FTC Win Design Award

DLR Group and local architect firm Corner Greer & Associates recently earned the William W. Caudill Citation award from American School and University Magazine for their collaboration on the Joplin High School/Franklin Technology Center design project. This is the top K-12 award presented as part of the magazine's annual Architectural Portfolio competition. Submissions were judged by an independent panel of architects and facility professionals and education administrators. The jury noted that JHS/FTC was an "inspirational project that, while broken down into separate career pathways, establishes strong continuity and community."

[Read more about the award in the November 2015 American School and University magazine.](#)

Follow us on Twitter

Follow Joplin High School for school news and information, the Joplin High School counselors for scholarship information and counseling updates, the JHS sports teams for what's happening "on the field or on the court", and Dr. Kerry Sachetta for school celebrations, education news, and school updates - daily.

Joplin High School: @JoplinHS

JHS Counselors: @CounselorsJHS

Joplin Athletics: @JHS_Athletics

Dr. Kerry Sachetta: @KerrySachetta



JHS/FTC Mission Statement

Empowering all learners by engaging in college and career readiness through rigorous and relevant opportunities that foster a passion for learning and a strong work ethic in responsible and innovative citizens.

JHS/FTC Vision Statement

We pursue excellence by

- *providing* a safe, rigorous, innovative and career-focused learning environment
- *inspiring* self-discovery
- *embracing* diversity and collaboration
- *bridging* the transition to post-secondary aspirations
- *developing* world-class leaders

... so learners emerge as productive, responsible citizens.



further school improvement measures.

For more information go to: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/>

JHS Recognized Again by Apple

For the second time, Joplin High School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for creating an innovative, technology-rich learning environment that supports students and staff through leadership, collaboration, and feedback for continuous improvement. The designation is for the 2015-2017 school years. Every teacher and student at Joplin High School has access to his or her own MacBook and a wealth of online resources. Collaboration between teachers, district staff, and the community help to create a project-based, technology-rich curriculum that encourages curiosity, exploration, and real-world application of learning. Support and tools for teachers include coaching staff, online instructional resources, and ongoing personalized professional development.

The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. This is the second time that Joplin High School has earned this designation.

[Learn more.](#)

JHS Students Participate in Tomorrow's Leaders Today Leadership Program

Joplin High School seniors were among 43 students from area schools selected to participate in the 2015-2016 Tomorrow's Leaders Today program through the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Eighty-one students applied for this leadership program, which guides students through various aspects of business and community leadership training. Tomorrow's Leaders Today is in its 22nd year of introducing future leaders to the community.

The class was chosen based on their responses to written applications and personal interviews. They represent eight area high schools. Tomorrow's Leaders Today sessions run from November through April. The presenting sponsors of the TLT program are Eagle Picher Technologies and General Mills.

JHS students chosen to participate were: Anum Ahmed, Anna Blue, Audrey Kanan, Amy Koch, Steall Ndauwa, Matt McMullen, Jennifer Nguyen, Molly Ritter, Emma Thompson, Berenice Urbina-Maturino, and Vivian Vu.

